

Message on the Observance of Independence Day, 2005

July 1, 2005

Since July 4, 1776, Americans have experienced freedom's power to overcome tyranny, inspire hope in times of trial, and turn the creative gifts of men and women to the pursuits of peace. Across generations, our Nation has defended and advanced liberty.

The words of our Founding Fathers first guided a country of 4 million souls, yet they put large events in motion. When the Liberty Bell sounded at the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence, one who witnessed the birth of freedom in our country said, "It rang as if it meant something." In our time it means something still. America continues to proclaim liberty throughout the world, and we remain a country full of hope and promise where opportunity thrives, where all stand equal before the law, and where our freedoms are celebrated.

Americans live in freedom because of the enduring power of our ideals. In the midst of World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt reminded our troops that our Nation believes in the "right to liberty under God—for all peoples and races and groups and nations, everywhere in the world." Today, a new generation of Americans continues to defend our Nation and spread freedom. On this Fourth of July, we honor the brave men and women of our military, and their families, and we express our gratitude for their courage, dedication to duty, and love of country.

Laura and I send our best wishes to all Americans on Independence Day. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Memorandum on Assignment of Reporting Function

July 1, 2005

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Assignment of Reporting Function

My memorandum on "Assignment of Reporting Functions under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004" of April 21, 2005, is amended by striking "7119(a)" and inserting in lieu thereof "7120."

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 26

In the afternoon, the President attended a White House tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

June 27

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, on the South Lawn, he participated in a photo opportunity with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Motorcycle Escort Officers.

In the afternoon, in the Old Family Dining Room, the President had a working lunch with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany. Later, he had a meeting with members of the Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America's Social Security.

Later in the afternoon, in the East Room, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the 2005 Presidential Scholars.